

memorandum

date May 13, 2010

to Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority

from ESA Adolfson

subject Changes to Flood Plan Based on Public Meeting Comments

Introduction

In April 2010, the Flood Authority held public meetings on the Chehalis River Basin Draft Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan (Flood Plan). A detailed report including all public comments received was distributed to the Flood Authority on April 27. The majority of public comments received did not relate directly to the Flood Plan. However, some comments were relevant to the Flood Plan and we have made changes in response to those comments. There are also additional changes that we have made to finalize the document and prepare it for adoption by local jurisdictions.

One set of public comments was received by email after the Public Meeting Report was distributed. Those additional comments are attached to this memo.

This memorandum summarizes the revisions that we have made and how public comments are presented in the final Flood Plan. A final version of the Flood Plan will be presented to the Flood Authority at the May 20 meeting.

How Public Comments will be Presented in the Flood Plan

- Information about the public meetings will be added to chapter 1
- Chapter 1 will reference Appendix B which will consist of the Public Meetings Report, including all public comments received. The Public Meetings Report has already been presented to the Flood Authority
- The plan will not “respond” to the comments like an EIS would, but we have revised the document in response to relevant comments

Revisions Based on Public Comments

We have revised the Flood Plan based on relevant public comments to the extent possible. We have:

- Revised the dates for beginning and completion of construction for the Twin Cities project.
- Added information about required SEPA review of the Flood Plan to chapter 1.

- Added updated information about flood events and damages from 2007 and 2009 floods.
- Added recommended projects to Table 9-1.

Most of the public comments related to either the Twin Cities project or the upstream storage studies. As we stated at the public meetings, we have shared the public comments with the Corps of Engineers and the Lewis County Public Utility District.

Other Proposed Changes

- We have revised the Flood Plan based on comments from agencies, including Thurston County, Grays Harbor County, the City of Montesano, and the Department of Ecology.
- Additional information has been added to Chapter 1 stating that the development and adoption of a Flood Plan is a critical step in establishing a Flood District.
- We have added a “Next Steps” section to chapter 1 that describes the adoption process needed by local jurisdictions. The section describes the required SEPA process.

Next Steps

- Approve the Flood Plan at the June 17, 2010 meeting.
- Send a letter to member jurisdictions recommending they adopt the plan.

Emailed comment – received May 7:

Friday
May 7, 2010
Chehalis River Basin
Flood Authority

Attn: Comments
Draft Comprehensive Flood
Hazard Management Plan
March 2010 edition

:
Flood Authority Staff

My comments may not be addressed in your March 2010 draft hazard management plan:

1. Mellon Street Channel
 - a. Regardless of the proposed levee or water retention plans, are any changes proposed for the Mellon Street channel, such as deepening the channel so as to allow more water to flow through the channel, widening the channel so as to allow more water to flow through the channel, raising the height of the Mellon street bank, or any other modification to the Mellon street channel?
 - b. If the proposed levee is constructed and the Chehalis flood waters can not access the accustomed flood ponding area, how much higher will the flood level be at the Mellon street channel, how much additional water, compared to the 2007 and 2008 Chehalis floods, will flow downstream of the Mellon street channel, and will any modifications because of the levee construction be made to the Mellon street channel (i.e. deepening the channel or widening the channel or making higher the banks of the Mellon street channel)?
2. Coal Creek, Salzer Creek and Dillenbaugh Creek
 - a. If the proposed levee project is constructed in the Centralia/Chehalis urban area and there are record flooding levels in the above-mentioned creeks and the creek flood levels began to impact the residential/commercial areas each creek influences, how will the creek flood waters be addressed?
 - i. Will the creek flood levels just be endured?
 - ii. Will contingency plans be developed to move the creek floodwaters to the main stem Chehalis River?
 1. What is the estimated volume of creek floodwater that will be relocated into the main stem Chehalis River?
3. The Planning and Community Directors of the City of Chehalis and Lewis County are each on public record stating each entity will continue to fill in their respective flood plains:
 - a. If the latest flood plain map is adopted, how will the City of Chehalis and Lewis County be prohibited or inhibited from filling in the Chehalis River flood way and flood plain that each entity is responsible for?
 - b. What statutory authority does the Flood Authority possess to prohibit or inhibit filling in the Chehalis River flood way or flood plain?
4. If private, county or municipal entities insist on filling in the Chehalis River flood way or flood plain, they should be allowed under the following circumstances:
 - a. The fill project will not be eligible for nor participate in the Federal Flood insurance coverage.
 - b. Any construction must be constructed at ground level, so that the floodwaters can flow through the structure.

- c. Any construction must be constructed on pilings, so that the floodwaters can flow under the structure.
- 5. In the summer time, dry gravel bars in the Chehalis river basin can be dredged for gravel resulting in wider and deeper river channels that will reduce the meandering of the river channel and increase the carrying capacity of the river channel.
- 6. For whichever year the revised flood map is approved for, how much higher than the flood level of 2007 or 2008, will the top of the proposed levee be?
 - a. How many acre-feet of usual and accustomed ponding area will be eliminated in the Centralia and Chehalis urban area as a result of the proposed levee project?
 - b. How much higher at the Mellon street channel will the Chehalis river flood level be?
 - c. Will floodwaters below the Mellon street channel flow down river earlier than currently experienced in the 2007 and 2008 flood?
 - d. Will the volume of Chehalis river floodwaters below the Mellon street channel be higher than currently experience in the 2007 and 2008 floods?
 - e. What are the impacts in the Independence, Rochester, Oakville and Porter areas are as a result of the levee project in the Centralia and Chehalis area?
- 7. As result of the levee project are any mitigation projects below the Mellon street channel anticipated for municipal facilities (i.e., Centralia High School, Galvin Road, Centralia Sewerage Facility)?
- 8. Many of the older bridges (Galvin Road, Prather Road, Howanut Road, Sickman Ford) had road approach ways that were built on piling so that the floodwaters could flow through and not back up. Many recent bridge replacement projects now have earthen road approach ways that back up the flood waters and when the flood waters overflow the road way there is immense scarring of the road way and erosion of nearby fields. Are there any plans to replace earthen roadways with pilings to reduce back up of the floodwaters and to reduce the velocity of the floodwaters?